

Tom Barrett Mavor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE Commissioner of Health

Health Department

Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653

phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990 web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2013

Contact: Sarah DeRoo Office (414) 286-3548 Cell (414) 708-4060

City of Milwaukee Health Department Marks National Public Health Week

April 1-7 marks week to celebrate 'Public Health is ROI' nationwide

MILWAUKEE – During the week of April 1-7, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) will celebrate National Public Health Week. Since 1995, the first full week in April has been declared a time to recognize the impact of public health efforts.

"For more than 145 years, the City of Milwaukee Health Department has been a leader in ensuring that all Milwaukee residents have access to resources and information that will improve their health," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "This week is a reminder that the efforts of a public health department like ours ensure that we have safe food to eat, clean water to drink, and that all citizens have the means to be healthy."

The theme of National Public Health Week, "Public Health is ROI," has health departments across the country raising awareness for the effect public health has on our communities.

"Providing core services and addressing our most critical issues such as infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS is an investment in the future of our community," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.

In 2012, the MHD announced that for a fifth consecutive year, the city has seen a reduction in its teen pregnancy rate. Other 2012 successes include ensuring an 86 percent compliance rate for school-required vaccinations within Milwaukee Public Schools, abating 768 housing units of lead, and providing nearly 9,000 home visits within the nurse home visitation programs.

"While long-term challenges remain, we are proud of our successes and what they mean for the health of every person in Milwaukee," Commissioner Baker added.

For more information about the City of Milwaukee Health Department, visit www.milwaukee.gov/health.

For more information on National Public Health Week, visit www.nphw.org.

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